

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO CINCPACREPPHIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MANSFIELD REPORT

REF: STATE 246277

1. MANSFIELD REPORT, ENTITLED WINDS OF CHANGE, CONSISTS OF MAJOR SECTIONS ON BURMA, THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES, (WHICH ARE CHARACTERIZED AS "THREE VARIATIONS OF NEUTRALISM") POSTSCRIPT ON CHINA'S PETROLEUM POTENTIAL, BRIEF COMMENT ON LAOS, AND APPENDICES WHICH INCLUDE THE US-RP MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT AND THE MANILA PACT.

2. REGARDING GENERAL US-PHIL RELATIONS, MANSFIELD COMMENTS THAT CARRYOVER OF THE PRE-WORLD WAR II PHILIPPINE DEPENDENCY IS FAST DRAWING TO CLOSE, AND THAT CURRENT CHANGES IN PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR MANY UNCLASSIFIED

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YEARS. HE CONCLUDES THAT CHANGES REFLECT GROWING PHILIP-

PINE SELF-CONFIDENCE RATHER THAN LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE US.

3. DESCRIBING US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, HE EMPHASIZES VAST SIZE OF CLARK AND SUBIC, AND STATES THAT MUCH OF BASE TERRITORY IS NOT USED FOR DIRECT MILITARY PURPOSES. HE

NOTES MARCOS' CALL FOR AN END TO EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY, STATES THAT BASE NEGOTIATIONS WILL INVOLVE ISSUES OF (A) "FILIPINIZATION", (B) USE OF SOME PORTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES, AND (C) RETURN OF SOME BASE LANDS. HE STATES THAT OUR FORCES CAN REMAIN USEFULLY IN PHILIPPINES ONLY IF THEIR PRESENCE ACCORDS WITH TODAY'S REALITIES, BUT THAT GIVEN A REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS ON BOTH SIDES THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT.

4. MANSFIELD SAYS THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN PHILIPPINE MARTIAL LAW WILL END, NOTES THAT THERE IS SOME OPPOSITION, BUT CONCLUDES THAT, IN GENERAL, IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING ASSOCIATED WITH MARTIAL LAW HAVE WON, AT MINIMUM, GENERAL ACQUIESCENCE. HE DESCRIBES NPA AND MUSLIM REBELLIONS, INDICATES MUSLIM INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN AIDED FROM LIBYA AND SABAH, AND NOTES THAT MUSLIMS TIE UP ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF AFP COMBAT FORCES. HE ADDS US MILITARY ARE NOT PERMITTED IN COMBAT AREAS AND NO US PERSONNEL ARE INVOLVED IN MILITARY SITUATION.

5. PHILIPPINE ECONOMY IS DESCRIBED BRIEFLY, WITH SOME STATISTICS ON TRADE PATTERNS AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. MANSFIELD SAYS U.S. FIRMS HAVE ADJUSTED WELL TO EXPIRATION OF LAUREL-LANGLEY, AND PASSAGE OF 1974 TRADE ACT HAS CLEARED WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW TREATY OF COMMERCE. VERY HIGH PHILIPPINE BIRTH RATE AND GREAT GAP IN LIVING STANDARDS BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS ARE NOTED AS PROBLEMS. HE SAYS THAT WHILE PHILIPPINES NOW REQUIRES 70 MILLION BARRELS OF IMPORTED OIL PER DAY (SIC), GOP PROJECTS INDEPENDENCE OF FOSSIL FUELS FOR LUZON BY 1985.

6. IN OPENING PARAGRAPHS OF REPORT, MANSFIELD STATES THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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WHILE ANOTHER FACE OF NEUTRALISM IS REFLECTED IN MARCOS' INDEPENDENT COURSE, AND GOP IS CLEARLY DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE EXTRATERRITORIAL ASPECTS OF PRESENT BASE ARRANGEMENTS, GOP HAS NO DESIRE TO FORCE US OUT OR TO TERMINATE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. SUMMING UP, HE CONCLUDES PHILIPPINES IS EXPERIENCING GROWING NATIONAL ASSERTION AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, THAT THE PREVIOUS DEPENDENCY RELATIONSHIP IS NO LONGER IN ACCORD WITH INTERESTS OF EITHER COUNTRY, BUT

THAT THE OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION IS BRIGHT IF REQUIRED ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE IN GOOD TIME AND WITH SENSITIVITY -- ON BOTH SIDES.

7. IN GENERAL (NON-PHILIPPINE) COMMENTS MANSFIELD SAYS THAT US POLICY IS BEGINNING TO REFLECT FACT THAT US IS A PACIFIC NATION, BUT THAT FROM INDOCHINA WE NOW SEE QUITE

CLEARLY THAT OUR CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE HISTORY ON ASIAN MAINLAND ITSELF IS QUITE LIMITED ON BASIS OF ANY RATIONAL INPUT OF MANPOWER AND RESOURCES. THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA, NATIONALISM AND NEUTRALITY, MIXED WITH A BUDDING INTEREST IN REGIONAL COOPERATION, ARE THE DRIVING FORCES. MANILA PACT SEEMS OF LITTLE RELEVANCE TO US SECURITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY SITUATION, AND MAY BE MORE OF A LIABILITY THAN AN ASSET TO ALL THE SIGNATORIES (E.G. FOR THE PHILIPPINES IT OVERLAPS THE BILATERAL MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.) DIRECT US CONTACT WITH THE SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WOULD SEEM HELPFUL AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

8. MANSFIELD WARNS AGAINST U.S. BEING DRAWN INTO WIDENING COMMITMENTS, AND ADVISES CUTBACKS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENTS IN SEVERAL INSTANCES. HE SUGGESTS WE AVOID SCRUPULOUSLY ANY INCLINATIONS TOWARDS DEEPENING INVOLVEMENT IN BURMESE AFFAIRS, E.G. GOB NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS, AND REGARDS DIRECT U.S. ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND AS HIGHLY DUBIOUS. HE SUGGESTS US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN BOTH PROGRAMS MIGHT BEST BE CHanneled THROUGH INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MANSFIELD ALSO CONCLUDES THAT IT IS NOT IN US OR, PROBABLY, THAI INTEREST FOR MILITARY CAPACITY TO BE RETAINED THERE; THERE SHOULD BE NO TOehold WHICH WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR REINVOLVEMENT OF US UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY FORCES ON MAINLAND.

9. IN ASSESSING ASIAN PETROLEUM RESOURCES, REPORT QUOTES ONE ESTIMATE THAT BY 1988 PEKING IS LIKELY TO REACH THE CURRENT SAUDI PRODUCTION LEVEL OF 8 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY, BUT WARNS OF GREAT POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE IN OVERLAPPING CLAIMS ALONG THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. "WE SHOULD NOT ... LEND ENCOURAGEMENT TO COMPANIES WHICH WISH TO PLUNGE AHEAD WITH EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN DISPUTED AREAS." INGERSOLL

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